(Not for Publication.)

Cambridgeport, March 3. 1851.

Friend Garrison —

The rather enigmatical article, headed Phrenology versus Slavery, which appeared in a late Number of the Liberator, may be explained by the following quotation from a letter of mine — dated Dec. 3. 1850 — to the Rev. Lea Ray Sunderland; — in a written reply to which he says, "I have no doubt of the truth of what you describe of yourself." —

"About the beginning of November, 1849, I accidentally discovered, that by touching with my finger a phrenological organ, while the corresponding faculty was in exercise — my breath became suddenly suspended; and I afterwards ascertained, that such is always the case, when the faculty and the breathing are in harmony with each other [so that the breathing may be termed the language of the faculty], and when the finger is in contact with what I have termed a focus of the organ. — By this method, I find that the locations which Spurzheim, and the Fowlers assign to the organs, are commonly correct;* and I have likewise discovered — besides a great many "poles" or sympathetic points of the organs — not less than from ten to twenty phrenological organs, or foci of cerebral functions, which are not described in the works of these authors."†

"About six months ago, I likewise discovered, that I have a place-finding power, equivalent, probably, to what, in the article headed Instinct, in No. 14 of your Spiritual Philosopher, you term

* I have since thought them probably correct about six times in seven.

† I have since discovered several others.

The organ of Conscientiousness is between that of "Self-Will" and that of "Self-Esteem."

epizooty. By this power, or by certain definite modes of breathing, [&c.] I can find both the true, and the magnetic north — the azimuth or point of the compass of the sun, or moon, (at least while above the horizon,) when intercepted by clouds, or a wall, &c. — the direction of the wind, without the help of sight, hearing, touch, or sensation; likewise, probably, if carried blindfold to a strange place, many miles from home, I could tell the nearest way back. — It would seem that, by this power, an animal should be able to find its lost mate; or that I should be able — at least in some cases — to point out the bearing of a distant invisible companion, friend, foe, ship, slave-hunter, &c."

"I have never been magnetized by any other person; and have never, to my knowledge, been magnetically asleep. During the above experiments, I appear to myself, and (I believe) to a spectator, to be in the normal, or in my usual waking state." — "I am desirous of knowing whether I could not teach a fugitive slave how to find the north star for to steer northward in cloudy weather."

La Roy Sunderland, in his Spiritual Philosopher, No. 14, p. 107, says, "It has been stated of Australian savages, on first-rate authority, that they are enabled to return for hundreds of miles to their homes, though totally unacquainted with the route, being led by an intuitive impulse which they cannot explain." Now, as ~~the Ethiopic or Black Race~~ "the Ethiopic or Black Race," the Australians belong to the "Ethiopic or Black Race," — why should not the North American slaves, who are also of this race, be able ~~to~~ — either instinctively, or by suitable teaching — to perform a similar feat? — As, perhaps, some of your colored friends may be willing to try an epizootic or place-finding experiment, I will here briefly explain one of my easiest

methods of discovering the magnetic North, which, in the vicinity of Boston, must be "about ten degrees," or nearly one point of the compass, West of the true North. The method is, to turn very gradually around, while the chin is rather depressed, as when resting upon the top of the cravat;— and, at the same time, to repeat, rapidly and continually, the hissing sound sk, till the breath spontaneously stops, and thereby indicates that you are facing the magnetic North, the magnetic East, or the magnetic West. Of these three points of the compass, the experimenter may know that he is facing the magnetic North, by this test;— that when he is actually facing the magnetic North, the hissing breath will not be suspended, by facing exactly "to the right about." In my own case, these breathings are likewise suspended, when I face the true North; provided that I am thinking, with proper intensity, of this point of the compass. I think it best for the experimenter to utter as many as 60 hisses, while he is turning around a quarter of a circle; because, otherwise, he may pass the magnetic North, without perceiving any suspension of breath. — If any of your friends are successful in this experiment, I shall be much obliged, if you will contrive to let me know it.

In the course of the present year, I hope to prepare for the press, at least a sketch of a wholly original Theory of Articulate Sounds — upon which, for twenty years, I have been bestowing immense labor — and in which, I believe I may say that I have reduced all the vowels and consonants that can be uttered by the human voice, to their simplest elements, and ultimate vibrations. Our American phonographers have by no means a correct analysis of the English vowels.

With great respect, I am yours.

E. B. Fenrork.

William Lloyd Garrison, Esq.

P. S. In the piece — sent to you about a week ago — headed Miscreants, I have perhaps, been too severe. At any rate, you will much oblige me, by directing the piece to be destroyed, without publication.

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